



# NORTH READING

## Middlesex County



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## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

The Town of North Reading is an outlying suburban town in Middlesex County, lying entirely within the watershed of the Ipswich River. It was created an independent town in 1853 and retains a number of simple and well-preserved mid-18th century center-chimney vernacular houses with about three houses dating back to 1730.

Original grants of large farmsteads along the river during the mid-17th century brought six families to the settlement before 1680. The economy of the town in the 17th and 18th century was based on subsistence farming with limited hop production. There was a sawmill on Lob's Pond by 1694 and grist and saw mills at the village center by 1794. Some small scale boot and shoe making was underway by 1820, and by 1850 small sheds or shops to make shoes were attached to almost every house in town. These shops produced cheap footwear that was sold south to clothe slaves, and the Civil War destroyed the town's industry. The principal products of the town in the early 20th century were milk, apples and fruits.

The town center retains a Federal style meeting house and affluent Federal village with a well-preserved district of period houses, and townspeople are very proud of the fact that their town center retains its complete historic fabric.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

Northeastern Massachusetts, bordered by Wilmington on the west, Andover and North Andover on the north, Middleton and Lynnfield on the east, and Reading on the south. North Reading is 10 miles south of Lawrence, 15 miles north of Boston, and 234 miles from New York City.

**Total Area:** 13.51 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 13.26 sq. miles

**Population:** 12,002

**Density:** 905 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

### (Reading Station)

Normal temperature in January.....24.5°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.0°F

Normal annual precipitation.....46.6"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Reading, Wilmington

## Regional Planning Agency

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (978) 664-6000

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Town Administrator

Open Town Meeting

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1853

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	7,804		
Democrats	2,285	29.3	%
Republicans	1,367	17.5	%
Other parties	3	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	4,149	53.2	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: North Reading town, Middlesex County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	13,837	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	13,837	100.0
Male.....	6,818	49.3	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	102	0.7
Female.....	7,019	50.7	Mexican.....	15	0.1
Under 5 years.....	1,068	7.7	Puerto Rican.....	17	0.1
5 to 9 years.....	1,204	8.7	Cuban.....	6	-
10 to 14 years.....	1,040	7.5	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	64	0.5
15 to 19 years.....	751	5.4	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	13,735	99.3
20 to 24 years.....	606	3.6	White alone.....	13,420	97.0
25 to 34 years.....	1,556	11.2	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	2,784	20.1	Total population.....	13,837	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	2,161	15.6	In households.....	13,712	99.1
55 to 59 years.....	749	5.4	Householder.....	4,795	34.7
60 to 64 years.....	575	4.2	Spouse.....	3,303	23.9
65 to 74 years.....	856	6.2	Child.....	4,772	34.5
75 to 84 years.....	451	3.3	Own child under 18 years.....	3,632	26.2
85 years and over.....	137	1.0	Other relatives.....	492	3.6
Median age (years).....	37.8	(X)	Under 18 years.....	164	1.2
18 years and over.....	10,026	72.5	Nonrelatives.....	350	2.5
Male.....	4,872	35.2	Unmarried partner.....	162	1.2
Female.....	5,154	37.2	In group quarters.....	125	0.9
21 years and over.....	9,669	69.9	Institutionalized population.....	113	0.8
62 years and over.....	1,774	12.8	Noninstitutionalized population.....	12	0.1
65 years and over.....	1,444	10.4	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	625	4.5	Total households.....	4,795	100.0
Female.....	819	5.9	Family households (families).....	3,755	78.3
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	1,919	40.0
One race.....	13,770	99.5	Married-couple family.....	3,303	68.9
White.....	13,495	97.5	With own children under 18 years.....	1,732	36.1
Black or African American.....	55	0.4	Female householder, no husband present.....	334	7.0
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	6	-	With own children under 18 years.....	141	2.9
Asian.....	180	1.3	Nonfamily households.....	1,040	21.7
Asian Indian.....	38	0.3	Householder living alone.....	858	17.9
Chinese.....	81	0.6	Householder 65 years and over.....	293	6.1
Filipino.....	14	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	2,017	42.1
Japanese.....	6	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	964	20.1
Korean.....	18	0.1	Average household size.....	2.86	(X)
Vietnamese.....	8	0.1	Average family size.....	3.28	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	15	0.1	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	1	-	Total housing units.....	4,870	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	4,795	98.5
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	75	1.5
Samoa.....	1	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	-	-	occasional use.....	31	0.6
Some other race.....	33	0.2	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.4	(X)
Two or more races.....	67	0.5	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	1.3	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: <sup>3</sup>			Occupied housing units.....	4,795	100.0
White.....	13,554	98.0	Owner-occupied housing units.....	4,339	90.5
Black or African American.....	77	0.6	Renter-occupied housing units.....	456	9.5
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	17	0.1	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.95	(X)
Asian.....	203	1.5	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.01	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	1	-			
Some other race.....	60	0.4			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



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# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	44
Conventional Federal:	0

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	0
Federal (Section 8):	22



# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

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North Reading is situated in the Greater Boston Area, which has excellent rail, air, and highway facilities. State Route 128 and Interstate Route 495 divide the region into inner and outer zones, which are connected by numerous "spokes" providing direct access to the airport, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

### Major Highways

Principal highways are State Routes 28 and 62, an E-W road that connects North Reading to Interstate Routes 93 and 95. State Routes 114 and 125 also connect North Reading to I-93.

### Rail

Commuter rail service to Boston's North Station is available from Reading Station. Travel time from Reading Station to NS: 28-31 min.; 113 MBTA parking spaces.

### Bus

North Reading is a member of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA). There is no fixed route bus service.

### Other

The Beverly Municipal Airport, a Reliever (RL) facility in neighboring Beverly, has 3 asphalt runways 3,500'; 4,634'; and 5,001' long. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

None

### Long Term Care

Meadowview Healthcare N. Ctr

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

None

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)



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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.